well to remember, however, that even in the nineteenth century there were notable Chinese generals and that the exploits of at least one of them, Tso Tsung-t'ang, rivalled the greatest of those of the Han and the Tang. It must also be recalled that the Chinese have never, in historic times, been a pure race. It is one evidence of their strength that they have been willing to utilize and able to absorb peoples of many different stocks. The large numbers of men of prominence under the T'ang who were partly or entirely of foreign descent may mean in part that the assimila tion was in process.

Whatever may have been the significance of the alien blood of some of the T'ang generals and forces, the power of the dynasty continued to decline. Internally, the administrative ma- chinery did not fully recover from the disorders begun by An Lu-shan. The Empire had to be reconquered foot by foot, and largely by the assistance of military chieftains called in from the frontier. They, with their troops, dominated, in the name of the T'ang, whole sections of the realm. This *fait accompli* was later regularized by dividing the Empire into forty-seven districts gov- erned by imperial commissioners who were also soldiers. The civil officials were continued, but—at least for most practical purposes—they were subordinate to and were usually appointed by the military. These satraps were, naturally, a menace to the supremacy of the Emperor. Disunion was further threatened when the hereditary principle began to be introduced into their commands. It is not surprising that some of them broke out into revolt.

The T'ang did not collapse all at once. When, in

the middle of the ninth century, one of the princes of Nan Chao assumed the title of Emperor and invaded Annam (the "Peaceful South," a name which in 679 the Chinese first gave the extreme southern portions of their possessions—in the present Annam and Tong-king—possibly to balance Anhsi—the "Peaceful West"—the designation of the administrative district that covered their hold-ings in the far West), a Chinese general, Kao P'ien, succeeded in driving him back into his own territory and later on expelled him from Szechwan. Chinese authority, too, was preserved on the western marches in the region of Tunhuang, and the northern portion of Korea was under Chinese control. Early in the ninth